

K-11

The Anderson-Aldridge House
Water Street, Chestertown
c.1795

In the mid 1790's, Thomas Anderson purchased part of water lot No. 13 and all of lots Nos. 14 and 15. On lot No. 14 he built a fine brick residence, two and a half stories tall, laid in Flemish bond with molded water table and three-brick string course.

Anderson's house was similar to those located at 110 and 115 Water Street in plan (central stairhall with rooms on either side). Like 115 Water Street it is built high enough to have the basement open at grade level on the river side. In all these houses, the kitchens were located originally in the basement. On the second story an original back door remains, evidence of a former river side porch like that documented to have existed at the Customs House. Such a porch would have provided an open air but shaded work place at ground level near the kitchen.

In the early 19th Century Dr. Morgan Brown acquired the property.¹ Dr. Brown also owned the Violet Farm near Old St. Paul's Church, but used the Water Street house as his town home in winter months.

The house survived with few known changes for nearly eighty years and through six owners until it was purchased by John K. Aldridge in 1876.² Aldridge gutted the house, removed the "A" roof and raised the roof to form a full third story which he covered with a shallow-pitched tin roof. He added a two story brick kitchen wing on the northeast side and a two story porch on the river side. He then decorated the windows with cornices and added a

flat roof front entrance. On the southwest gable Aldridge added a two story oriel window decorated with fish scale shingles. The string course was cut back flush with the plane of the wall and then the entire structure was stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar masonry. The interior was renewed with 1870's millwork, including stair, doors, trim and flooring on the first and second floors. Today, only the third floor retains original 1790's doors and trim.

In 1911, Wilbur W. Hubbard purchased Aldridge's property in order to acquire part of Lot No. 15 upon which he would construct a new kitchen wing to Widehall.³ He subsequently sold the Aldridge House in 1920 with less land.⁴ Since that time it has passed through eleven more owners.

In 1966 the stucco of the facade was removed revealing the old brickwork and in 1972 the interior was remodeled and updated.

1. Land Records, Lib. BC 5, fol. 378.
2. Land Records, Lib. JKH 2, fol. 13.
3. Land Records, Lib. JTD 23, fol. 351.
4. Land Records, Lib. APR 6, fol. 400.

K-11 John K. Aldridge House

c. 1796

Chestertown

private

The John K. Aldridge house is made particularly interesting by the stages of alteration through which it has passed. The house appears to have begun as a 2½-story Federal style brick townhouse built in the last decade of the 18th century for Thomas Anderson. As it stands today it has been subjected to several varieties of 19th century taste: it became a 3-story house with a Greek Revival portico, Italiante windows hoods and a Victorian bay window. It also shows evidence of having been covered with stucco at some point. Much of the alteration is by tradition attributed to John K. Aldridge, the house's owner from 1876 to 1911, who is known to have added the northeast wing. It is an extremely handsome dwelling, more because of its eclectic style and ornament than in spite of it.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NHT# 1500112204

K-11

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Aldridge House
AND/OR COMMON

ICP

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
103 Water Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES- RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES- UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
~~Mr. Owen Jones~~ Hollison H. & Catherine Baxter Telephone #: none

STREET & NUMBER
103 Water Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

Liber #: EHP 46 69
Folio #: 316 164

STREET & NUMBER
Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
none

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-11

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is located on the southeast (river) side of Water Street just east of its intersection with High Street in Chestertown. It is situated on Water Lots 14 and 15 on the Original Plot of Chestertown, 1730.

(late 18th century)

It was originally/ (~~1730-1800~~) a brick late Georgian style home of 2½ stories with an "A" roof--probably with dormers--, with a brick belt course, a 1-brick deep water table, and probably with flat brick arches over the windows, as are presently over the basement windows. The brick of the original building is laid in Flemish bond.

During the nineteenth century several major alterations were made, only one of which can be dated with any accuracy. As the house stands today it has three stories; it retains its "A" roof, but the pitch has been decreased.* The belt course has been chipped off. The house also has picked up a nineteenth century entrance portico: it has two pairs of square columns, a balustered railing, wooden steps, and an iron hand rail. The door is paneled and framed by sidelights and a transom. The only interior decoration is a pair of large scroll brackets.

now

All of the first and second story windows/ have ~~pinked up~~ decorated cornices: window ~~they~~ are all double hung sash, 6/6, and have louvered shutters. The ~~northwest~~ southwest gable end (right) has had a 2-story bay window added, with fish-scale shingles, dentils, and brackets; the front of the bay-window carries two pairs of fluted pilasters.

The cornice is plain but ~~ix~~ has modillion brackets. There are interior chimneys within each gable end.

In 1876, a 3-bay, 2-story wing with an "A" roof was added to the northeast gable end. Its brickwork is laid in common bond. It has a front entrance of its own: the door is paneled, has a transom above, and full-length louvered shutters on either side. It has wooden steps & iron handrails. The windows are double hung sash, 6/6, but have much plainer cornices over them than the original wing. The main cornice of the wing has modillions rather than the modillion brackets of the original structure. There is a large chimney within the outside gable end.

At one time a stucco of some sort was plastered over the entire facade of both the original structure and the wing and then removed; its traces remain.

*The added third story has its brickwork laid in common bond.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-11

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES Between 1796 & 1808 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this house lies in its record of response to successive architectural styles, a significance which will increase if more can be found out about the dates of the various alterations the building has undergone.

The original late Georgian house was built during the ownership of Thomas Anderson, who bought part of Water Lot 13 and all of 14 and 15 in 1795-96 and built sometime between that time and 1808 when the new house and property were sold. During the nineteenth century it was owned by Morgan Browne, Richard Ringgold (President of Washington College), Joseph Wickes, Rebecca Ruth and John Aldridge, but which of them altered it (in addition to Aldridge who we know added the wing) is still a mystery. *

As the house stands today, it appears to have been subjected to at least Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian tastes. The substitution of the third story for the original dormers flattened the perspective of the house and may represent a response to the Federal aspect of River House, two doors up the street by its second owner, Morgan Brown. The added portico contributes a later, Greek Revival effect. The bay window, on the other hand, is pure Victorian as are the elaborate cornices over the main building's windows.

The northeast wing came late in the century (1876 or later), but is notably the most restrained portion of the building. Aldridge appears to have rejected the main building's elaborate cornices for simpler ones, also the main building's large modillion brackets for the smaller purer Georgian modillions. His choice of common bond for the brickwork, matching that of the third floor of the ~~original~~ main building rather than the Flemish bond of the lower stories which it adjoins, was probably simply a matter of economics.

~~Research continues.~~

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-11

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

.18 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the center of an iron pipe set in the concrete and planted in the south line of Water Street, where the lot abuts on the line of certain lands belonging to Wilbur W. Hubbard; and running thence along the south side of Water Street in an easterly direction to the line of the lands of George Baldwin thence running with the lands of same in a southerly direction to the waters of the Chester River; thence in westerly direction to intersect a line drawn south from the beginning point and parallel to High Street; thence running in a northerly direction by and with the said line reversed parallel to High Street to the place of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME, TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

DATE

March, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Chestertown

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Summary of Title Search: 103 Water Street

for
House was built by Thomas Anderson who bought land in three pieces:
part of
Charles Hackett to Thomas Anderson (Water Lot 13) (1795) L11
Benjamin Chew to Thomas Anderson (Water Lot 14) (1795) L15
Lane Nicholson to Thomas Anderson (Water Lot 15) (1795) L15

Thomas Anderson to Robert Cruckshanks BC 5 337 (1808) L900

Robert Cruckshanks to Morgan Browne BC 5 378 (1808) L1000 (sold on same day)

Morgan Browne to Richard Ringgold JR 1 87 (1841)

Richard Ringgold to Joseph Wickes (1850)

Joseph Wickes to Rebecca A. Ruth JKH 2 13 (1866)

Rebecca A. Ruth to John K. Aldridge (1876)

John K. Aldridge to Wilbur Hubbard, Sr. JTD 23 351 (1911)

Wilbur Hubbard to Albert S. Turner APR 6 400 (1920)

Albert S. Turner willed property to Frank C. Turner

Frank C. Turner to A. Sydney Turner, Jr. RAS 4 39 (1929)

A. Sydney Turner, Jr. to William Pepper Constable RAS 30 336 (1942)

Constable sold it back to Turner in 1943.

A. Sydney Turner to William B. Nicholson RAS 31 211 (1943)

William B. Nicholson to Norris Harrison (1952)

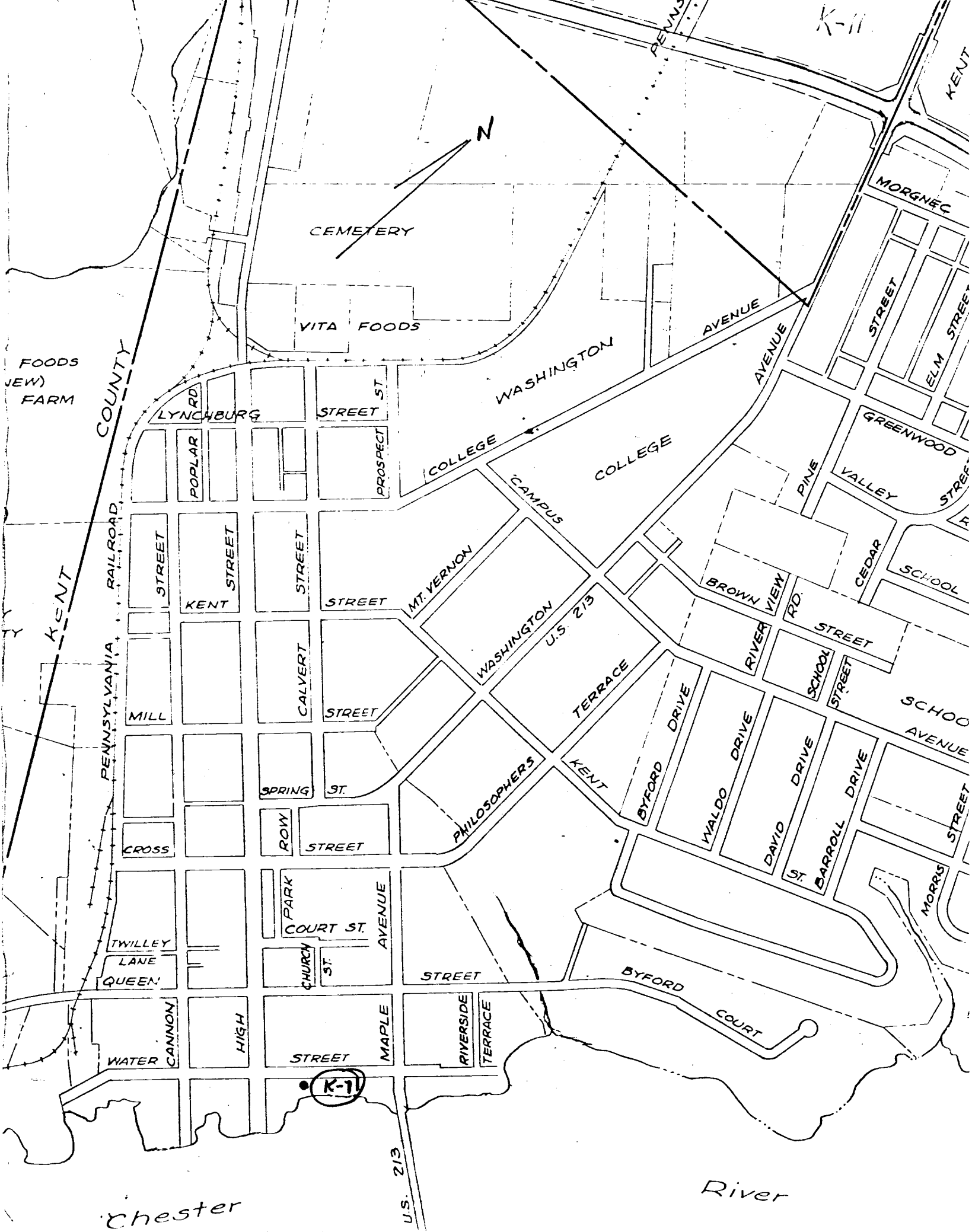
Norris Harrison to Robert L. Bryan (1966)

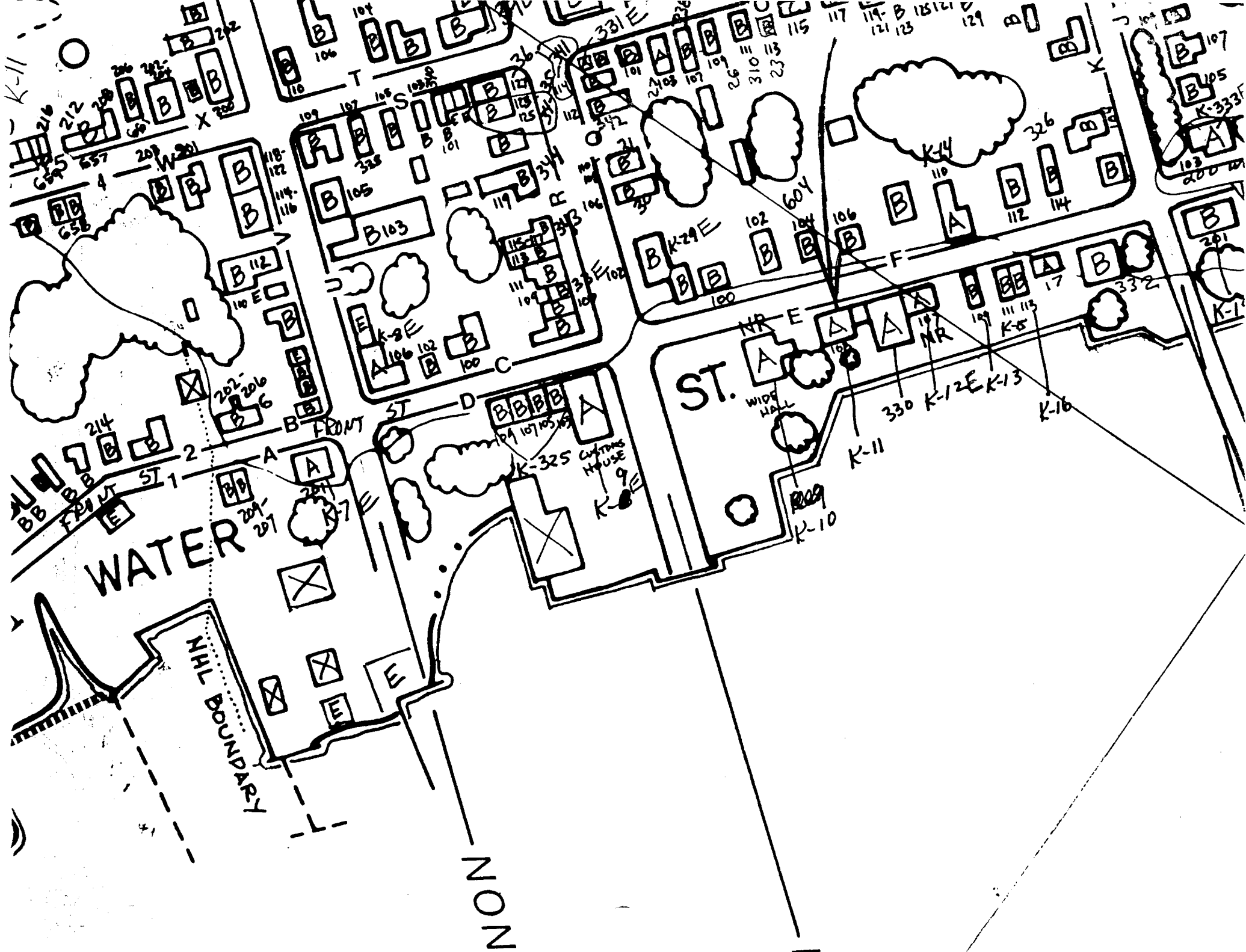
Robert L. Bryan to Buel B. Nave (1966)

Buel B. Nave to Michael Murphy (1971)

Michael Murphy to H. Alvan Jones (1972)

H. Alvan Jones (6/25/76) to Rollison H. and Catherine Baxter







K 71 John K. Aldridge House
103 Water

1/77 W



K 11 John K. Aldridge House
103 Water

W 1/77